

**Embargoed until 6 am on Thu 6 Dec 2018, NZ time (6 pm Wed 5 Dec GMT)**

## OPEN LETTER ON HARASSMENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST ANNE-MARIE BRADY

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Under Xi Jinping's rule, the PRC Party-state has intensified domestic repression to levels not seen in decades, as illustrated by the fate of hundreds of human rights lawyers and activists rounded up in 2015, or most shockingly, the build-up of "re-education" detention centers in Xinjiang, holding hundreds of thousands, perhaps over a million Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other Muslim minorities.

The wave of domestic repression has been accompanied by increasing efforts to limit freedom of expression even beyond the PRC's borders, both in overseas Chinese communities, where independent media have been largely taken over by entities connected with the CCP United Front and Propaganda systems, and even among foreign entities, such as academic publishers or commercial firms.

Another form of this escalation are the unprecedented attacks on foreign scholars and researchers of contemporary China, be it in the form of Cultural Revolution-style in-class harassment for their views and opinions, denial of visas, threatened or actual libel suits or, in some cases, detentions during research visits in Mainland China.

In New Zealand, Anne-Marie Brady, an academic who investigated the CCP's influence in local politics has become the target of a series of incidents which, taken together with attacks from Party-directed media, are consistent with an intimidation campaign. New Zealand authorities have been less than forthcoming in their support for a prominent scholar targeted by a foreign power, at times even adopting a dismissive posture – an attitude appreciated by PRC state media.

In response, we have initiated an open letter in support of Brady and her research. The letter, to be published on the [Sinopsis](#) website on Thursday 6 December, will remain open for signatures for approximately one week. Current signatories (164) include academics, think-tankers, journalists, human-rights activists, politicians and others, based in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, Argentina, Canada and the United States.

*Sinopsis and Jichang Lulu*

**Sinopsis**, led by **Martin Hála**, is a joint project between the [Institute of East Asian Studies at Charles University](#) in Prague and non-profit organisation [AcaMedia](#). It aims to present a regular overview of developments in China from the perspectives of Czech, Chinese, and international observers.

**Jichang Lulu** is an independent translator and analyst interested in China's activities abroad, with a focus on the Arctic.

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We, the undersigned concerned scholars and others with an interest in China, have been alarmed and appalled by the recent wave of intimidation directed against our colleague, Professor Anne-Marie Brady, in apparent retaliation for her scholarly research on contemporary China.

Anne-Marie Brady, a scholar of Chinese politics affiliated with the University of Canterbury, has investigated the external propaganda and political influence mechanisms employed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in New Zealand and beyond. Her 2017 paper [Magic Weapons](#), based on extensive Chinese and English-language sources and previous scholarship on the PRC political system, described the CCP's use of United Front tactics to control extra-Party forces, intensified at home and abroad under current CCP secretary general Xi Jinping. Professor Brady has accompanied her research with specific [policy recommendations](#) on how the New Zealand government can deal with the CCP's political influence operations. These policy recommendations have attracted wide interest far beyond New Zealand.

Since the publication of her work on global United Front work, Brady's home and office have been subjected to burglaries, during which no valuable items other than electronic devices were stolen. Most recently, her car was found to have been tampered with in ways consistent with [intentional sabotage](#). According to media reports, [Interpol](#) and the [New Zealand Security Intelligence Service](#) (SIS) are involved in the investigation. In China, academics were interrogated by Ministry of State Security agents after their institutions hosted Brady. Brady has also been personally attacked in media under the direction of the CCP, both in the [PRC](#) and in [New Zealand](#). Taken together, these circumstances make it likely that this harassment campaign constitutes a response to her research on the CCP's influence, and an attempt to intimidate her into silence.

Despite the evidence of CCP interference provided in Brady's research, of which the harassment campaign appears to be a further example, the New Zealand government has been slow to take action and failed to acknowledge that a problem exists. Professor Brady's repeated requests for additional SIS and police protection have been [ignored for four months](#).

Far from unique to New Zealand, the CCP's global United Front tactics and other political influence operations have been documented in other locations, in Europe, Oceania, Asia and the Americas. Small nations can be especially vulnerable to the PRC Party-state's exploitation of asymmetries in economic power and relevant expertise to advance its political interests. Whether within or without the limits of the law of their target countries, these activities have considerable effects on their societies and merit evidence-based research and the attention of politicians and the media. The harassment campaign against Brady risks having a chilling effect on scholarly inquiry, allowing the CCP to interfere in the politics of our societies unfettered by informed scrutiny.

We urge the New Zealand authorities to grant Professor Brady the necessary protection to allow her to continue her research, sending a clear signal to fellow researchers that independent inquiry can be protected in democratic societies and conducted without fear of retribution.

We join other voices in support of Professor Brady, which have included statements by a [New Zealand Chinese community organisation](#), some of her [Canterbury University colleagues](#), [New Zealand academics](#) and [two Australian Sinologists](#), as well as many others on social media.

We further hope decision makers and the public at large, in New Zealand and elsewhere, will engage with evidence-based research on the CCP's United Front tactics, such as Brady's Magic Weapons, and give due consideration to policy advice emanating from such research.

## **SIGNATORIES (164) as of 1:30 am 5 Dec 2018 CET**

Martin Hála, Charles University and Sinopsis.cz  
Jichang Lulu, independent researcher  
Filip Jirouš, Sinopsis.cz  
Kateřina Procházková, Sinopsis.cz  
Anna Zádrapová, Sinopsis.cz  
Hernán Alberro, CADAL  
Jamil Anderlini, journalist  
Ross Babbage, Chief Executive Officer, Strategic Forum  
David L. Bandurski, Co-Director, China Media Project  
Michael Barr, FAHA, Flinders University  
Michael Beckley, professor, Tufts University  
Jean-Philippe Béja, Research Professor Emeritus, CNRS  
Bill Bishop  
Joseph Bosco, former China Country Director, Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Julia Bowie, Center for Advanced China Research  
Hal Brands, Johns Hopkins SAIS  
Sarah M Brooks, International Service for Human Rights  
Dr. Douglas Brown, John Abbott College, Sainte Anne de Bellevue, Quebec  
Charles Burton, Brock University  
Reinhard Bütikofer MEP, Bündnis90/Die Grünen  
Darren Byler, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington  
Harald Böckman, Visiting Senior Fellow, London School of Economics and Political Science / University of Oslo  
Dag Inge Bøe, social anthropologist  
Jean-Pierre Cabestan, Professor of Political Science, Hong Kong Baptist University  
Alan Cantos, physical oceanographer and Director of the Spanish Tibet Support Committee (CAT)  
Yaxue Cao, China Change  
Kevin Carrico, Macquarie University  
Danielle Cave, Deputy Head, International Cyber Policy Centre, The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) and PhD Scholar, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU  
Lenka Cavojská, sinologist  
Anita Chan (Prof.), Co-editor, The China Journal, Australian National University  
Alvin Y.H. Cheung, Affiliated Scholar, US-Asia Law Institute, NYU School of Law  
Jocelyn Chey, University of Sydney  
Tarun Chhabra, policy analyst  
Donald Clarke, Professor of Law and David A. Weaver Research Professor of Law, George Washington University Law School  
Professor Jerome A. Cohen, NYU Law School  
J Michael Cole, China Policy Institute (U Nott), Research Associate CEFC  
Gabriel Collins, Rice University  
Anders Corr, Corr Analytics  
Demetrius Cox, independent researcher  
Peter Dahlin, Director of Safeguard Defenders  
June Teufel Dreyer, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Miami  
Mathieu Duchâtel, Deputy Director, Senior Fellow, Asia and China Programme, European Council on Foreign Relations  
Ryan Dunch, Professor, History and Classics, Director, Program in Religious Studies, University of Alberta  
Ian Easton, Research Fellow, Project 2049 Institute  
Elizabeth C. Economy, Council on Foreign Relations  
Charles Edel, United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney  
Eric Edelman, Johns Hopkins SAIS  
Kingsley Edney, University of Leeds  
Johan Elverskog, Southern Methodist University  
José Elías Esteve Moltó, Universitat de València  
Feng Chongyi, University of Technology Sydney  
Magnus Fiskejö, Department of Anthropology, Cornell University  
John Fitzgerald, Swinburne University of Technology  
Martin Flaherty, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

Ivan Franceschini, Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Australian National University  
Vanessa Frangville, Université libre de Bruxelles  
Aaron Friedberg, Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University  
Edward Friedman, Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Dr Andreas Fulda, School of Politics and International Relations, University of Nottingham  
Kateřina Gajdošová, Institute of Far Eastern Studies, Charles University  
Ursula Gauthier, grand reporter, L'Obs  
David Gitter, Center For Advanced China Research  
Louisa Greve, Uyghur Human Rights Project  
Gerry Groot, University of Adelaide  
A.Tom Grunfeld, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus  
Guo Shan-yu, Charles University  
Rosemary Haddon, (formerly) Massey University  
Ian Hall, Professor of International Relations, Griffith University  
Terry Halliday, Research Professor, American Bar Foundation, Honorary Professor, School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet), Australian National University, Adjunct Professor of Sociology, Northwestern University  
Clive Hamilton, Professor of Public Ethics, Charles Sturt University, Canberra  
Mette Halskov Hansen, University of Oslo  
Mark Harrison, University of Tasmania  
Jonathan Hassid, Iowa State University  
Laurens Hemminga, City University of Hong Kong / Leiden University  
Anne Henochowicz, Los Angeles Review of Books China Channel  
Daniel Herman, former minister of culture, KDU-ČSL  
Samantha Hoffman, analyst  
Marie Holzman, Solidarité Chine, Paris  
Leta Hong Fincher, independent sociologist  
Charles Horner, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute  
Fraser Howie, author and independent China analyst  
Carlos Iglesias, human rights lawyer  
J. Bruce Jacobs, Emeritus Professor of Asian Languages and Studies, School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, Monash University  
Jakub Janda, Executive Director, Head of Kremlin Watch Program, European Values Think-tank  
Rodney Jones, Wigram Capital Advisors (HK)  
Alex Joske, Australian Strategic Policy Institute  
Elsa B. Kania, Harvard University  
Karina Kapounová, sinologist, Charles University, Prague  
Thierry Kellner, Université libre de Bruxelles  
Jeffrey C. Kinkley, Portland State University  
Ondřej Klimeš, Czech Academy of Sciences  
Zuzana Košková, University of Freiburg  
Adam Koziel, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights  
Dr Mei-fen Kuo, The University of Queensland  
Petr Kutílek, lecturer in transitional politics, Prague  
Françoise Lauwaert, Université libre de Bruxelles  
Professor John Lee, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute  
James Leibold, La Trobe University  
Steve Levine, Department of History, University of Montana, USA  
Filip Lexa, Sinologist and Indonesia expert, Charles University, Prague  
Jon R. Lindsay, Assistant Professor, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto  
Perry Link, Princeton University  
Olga Lomová, Charles University  
Nicholas Loubere, Lund University  
Julia Lovell, Birkbeck College, University of London  
Maree Ma, Vision Times Media Corporation (Australia)  
T M McClellan, PhD, Independent scholar, formerly Senior Lecturer (Chinese) in The University of Edinburgh  
Barrett L. McCormick, Professor, Marquette University  
Kevin McCready, former AusAID official, translator

Paul Macgregor, historian and heritage consultant, Victoria, Australia  
Richard McGregor, Lowy Institute  
Anne McLaren, Professor, Chinese Studies, FAHA, Asia Institute, University of Melbourne  
Thomas G. Mahnken, Johns Hopkins SAIS  
Victor H. Mair, Professor of Chinese Language and Literature, University of Pennsylvania  
Maurizio Marinelli, University of Sussex  
Peter Mattis, Research Fellow, China Studies, Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation  
Rory Medcalf, Australian National University  
Jonathan Mirsky, historian of China, former journalist in China and Tibet  
Michelle S. Mood, Political Science and Asian Studies, Kenyon College  
Zbyněk Mucha, indologist and tibetologist, Charles University  
Luisetta Mudie, translator  
Ian Mukherjee, independent analyst  
Andrew J. Nathan, Columbia University  
Adam Ni, Visiting Fellow, Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University  
Cassy O'Connor MP, Tasmanian Greens Leader  
Mareike Ohlberg  
Max Oidtmann, Georgetown University  
Jojje Olsson, journalist and author  
Charlie Parton, Associate Fellow, RUSI  
Gaia Perini, University of Bologna  
Eva Pils, Professor of Law, King's College London  
Sophie Richardson, PhD, China Director, Human Rights Watch  
Sean Roberts, The George Washington University  
Kaz Ross, School of Humanities, University of Tasmania  
Fergus Ryan, Australian Strategic Policy Institute  
Gabriel Salvia, Director General, CADAL  
David Schak, Adjunct Associate Professor, Griffith Asia Institute  
Matt Schrader, editor, Jamestown Foundation China Brief  
Mark Selden, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, State University of New York at Binghamton  
Victor Shih, associate professor, UC San Diego  
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Prof. Martin Slobodník, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia  
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Janice Gross Stein, University of Toronto  
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Josef Šlerka, Head of New Media Studies Department at Charles University  
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Alan Tidwell, Director, Center for Australian, New Zealand and Pacific Studies, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University  
Rory Truex, Princeton University  
Glenn Tiffert, Hoover Institution  
Aki Tonami, University of Tsukuba  
Steve Tsang, Professor of Chinese Studies, SOAS University of London  
Professor Jonathan Unger, Political & Social Change Department, Australian National University  
Professor Arthur Waldron, University of Pennsylvania  
Gerrit van der Wees, George Mason University  
Andréa Worden, independent researcher  
David Curtis Wright, University of Calgary  
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Michael Yahuda, Emeritus Professor, LSE, Visiting Scholar, Sigur Center for Asia Studies, The Elliott School, George Washington University  
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